

Amendment to the Specification

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With reference to the figures, the invention will now be described in detail, providing the preferred embodiment and best mode. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the invention is an apparatus for cutting logs 99 into shorter segments for ease in handling, packing and transportation, comprising in general a circular saw blade assembly 10 mounted onto or connected to cradle means 30 for receiving the logs 99. Preferably, the apparatus is mounted on or incorporates a trailer 70, optionally having wheels (shown in Fig. 2) to facilitate moving the entire unit to any desired location.

Cradle means 30 is a receiving and holding means to retain the logs 99 in position during the cutting operation. Cradle means 30 also retains the cut segments of the logs 99 so that they can be removed by a grapple. Cradle means 30 extends longitudinally, such that the logs 99 are loaded lengthwise parallel to the longitudinal axis of the cradle means 30. Cradle means 30 can be constructed in various designs, provided a generally U-shaped channel in cross-section is formed. Preferably, cradle means 30 comprises a number of generally vertically oriented side members 31 mounted laterally in pairs along the length of the cradle means 30, with horizontal bottom members 32 connecting each opposing side members 31.

Alternatively, bottom members 32 may be solid or apertured plates. The side members 31 are spaced a sufficient distance longitudinally to allow access to the logs 99 by a grapple for removal and placement. Corner plates 33 are inserted in each lower corner formed by the junction of a side member 31 and bottom member 32 to create the proper profile to position the logs 99 so that the circular saw blade 11 will extend slightly beyond each log 99 during the cutting operation. Preferably, cradle means 30 is formed of high strength steel members.

Saw blade assembly 10 comprises in general a circular saw blade 11, drive means 12 to rotate saw blade 11, an extension arm 13, an arm sleeve 14, and extending means (not shown) to move the extension arm 13. Saw blade assembly 10 is mounted onto or connected to cradle means 30 such that saw blade assembly 10 is relatively centrally located longitudinally, as seen in FIG. 2. Laterally, saw blade assembly 10 is mounted onto or connected to cradle means 30 to one side, as seen in FIG. 1, such that the assembly 10 does not intrude into cradle means 30 when the assembly 10 is in the retracted position.